

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 25, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 34 - 37 are amended, previously pending claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 22-23, 25-27, 29-33, and 38-39 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 40 - 52 are added. Claims 3, 9, 24 and 28 were previously cancelled. As a result, claims 13-21, 34-37 and 40-52 are now pending in this application.

The amendments to the claims and the new claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. The amendments and the new claims are made to accept the allowed and allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the September-25, 2003, Office Action and are not intended to limit the scope of equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Claim Objections

Claims 34-37 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 34-37 are amended to correct the informalities.

'102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-33, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC ' 102(e) as being anticipated by Scheffer et al. (U.S. 6,543,041).

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-33, 38 and 39 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce these claims for prosecution in this or a later application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-21 were allowed.

Claims 34-37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 34 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claim 34 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 35 - 37 have been amended to depend from claim 34 and are also believed to be in condition for allowance because of their dependency on now independent claim 34.

New Claims

New claims 40-52 are added and are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Request for Interview

The Applicants' representative, Ann M. McCrackin, respectfully requests the benefit of an Examiner's Interview in this matter after the Examiner has had a chance to review this document if the Examiner does not believe that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant requests reconsideration of 13-21, 34-37 and 40-52 and withdrawal of the rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 349-9592) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

KIRAN GANESH ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date March 25, 2004

By Ann M. McCrackin
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 25 day of March, 2004.

ANN MCCRACKIN

Name

Ann M. McCrackin

Signature